



TeamMates scholarship winners. Back row: Paul Schiefelbein and Uriah Sawyer. Front row: Khuloud Al-Waely, Alisha Skoda, and Grace Kluck.

TeamMates celebrates graduates and scholarship winners at spring event

Nearly 25 students currently participating in the TeamMates Mentoring Program will graduate from high school this spring. To celebrate the graduates and to honor scholarship recipients, TeamMates hosted a celebration on the UN-L campus, April 30. Graduating seniors, their mentors, family members of scholarship recipients and TeamMates students in grades

9-11 participated in the event.

“Congratulations on your achievement,” said Suzanne Hince, TeamMates executive director. Her parents, Tom and Nancy Osborne started the program in 1991. “Today is one of my favorite days. Our whole goal is to see our matches reach high school graduation...Thank you for saying ‘yes’ to TeamMates.”
Lincoln TeamMates,

which aims at helping youth reach their full potential, sponsors six scholarships for graduating TeamMates seniors planning on attending post-secondary education. Following are the students receiving scholarships.

Grace Kluck, Lincoln North Star, received the Acts of Kindness Scholarship for \$1,000 and the Osborne Op-

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Mark Your Calendar

School Reminders

- May 31 Schools not in session
- June 3 Last day of class for students
- June 5 Graduation of LHS, LNS, LNE & LSW
- June 6 Graduation for East, LSE
- Aug. 18 First day of classes

Announcements and Kudos

New faith-based partner
Christ United Methodist Church, 4500 A, became an official TeamMates faith-based partner this spring. Faith-based partners support TeamMates in a number of ways, including to encourage their congregations/employees to give to the community by being a TeamMate. TeamMates currently has nine faith-based partners: *Christ UMC, First Plymouth UCC, Grace UMC, Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center, Saint Paul UMC, Sheridan Lutheran, South Gate UMC, Southwood Lutheran, and St. Mark's UMC.*

"May Day Surprise"

TeamMates of all grade levels made nearly 250 May Day cards and flowers during their meeting times throughout the month of April. The cards and flowers brought smiles to the faces of residents of Legacy, The Arbors, Eastmont, and Independence House. *Thank you, mentors and mentees!*



Words from Walter

By Walter Powell, Lincoln TeamMates Coordinator

What a great year! As the school year comes to an end, it's a time to reflect on the year and to prepare for the future.

Lincoln TeamMates ends the year with more than 800 mentor-student matches – the most ever! This means each week 800 students are being positively influenced in ways that the student may not be able to articulate and that is not always apparent. But know that you are making a difference.

We look at the faces of the young people who attend the recognition dinner and see their joy, for example. We hear their laughter and watch as those who receive student achievement awards stare at their awards for the rest of the evening. We're awestruck by the words from their heart when mentees nominate their mentors for Mentors Hall of Fame. We witness the pride of the TeamMates graduating seniors as they're recognized during the Spring Celebration. And we feel them glow when they receive scholarships.

Yes, it's been a wonderful year. Next year we're planning for even more mentors for even more students. Thank you, mentors, for making a difference in the hearts and minds of our young people and in our community, one child, one hour at a time.

Former mentees share their stories at Spring Celebration Event



Dominique Kelley

Former mentees, Dominique Kelley and Eddie Brown, were among the speakers addressing the graduates and students at the celebration honoring the graduates.

For Kelley, a stand-out player on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln women's basketball team, mentoring meant having a good friend who provided guidance.

Her mentor, Dr. Megan Ehlers, began with her in sixth grade. They continue to be close friends.

"My relationship with Megan allowed me to be a more confident person ...and to stand up for what may not be cool but what's right," Kelley said.

Brown was among the first mentees in the inaugural program in 1991.

"My mentor came to me when I needed him the most – when I was an eighth grader at Goodrich," Brown said. He credits the influence of TeamMates for who he is today – a successful businessman who owns his own business.

"My mentor encouraged me to dream and make goals to reach those dreams. And I'm living that dream every day... People may tell you what you *can't* do but TeamMates tells you what you *can* do and encourages you," he said.

Sponsors of the celebration were Lincoln Benefit Life, US Bank, and Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center.

Mentors presented their graduating TeamMate with a medallion graduation.

Scholarships (continued from page 1)

portunity Scholarship for \$1,500. Kluck plans on attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and studying broadcasting with a minor in vocal music. This scholarship is funded by an anonymous donor.

Khuloud Al-Waely, Lincoln High, was awarded the Osborne Opportunity Scholarship for \$1,500 and the Tom & Sara Boatman Scholarship for \$1,000. Al-Waely plans on attending the UN-L College of Architecture.

Alisha Skoda, Lincoln Northeast/Bryan Community, received the Leadership Resources Future Leader Scholarship for \$500. Skoda is currently enrolled full-time at Southeast Community College, with plans to attend a 4-year institution and possibly pursue a degree in astronomy. The scholarship is funded by Leadership Resources.

Paul Schiefelbein, Lincoln Southwest, was awarded the Kaplan University Scholarship for \$1,000. Schiefelbein plans on attending Kaplan University, pursuing future occupations in either food service or computer technology.

Kiauna Canby, Lincoln High, received the Bob FitzSimmons Scholarship for \$500. Canby plans on attending Southeast Community College to study Early Childhood Education.

Uriah Sawyer, Lincoln East/Bryan Community, received the John Goff Scholarship for \$500. Sawyer plans to attend Southeast Community College and major in either business management or psychology.

To see photos of the scholarship recipients and the scholarship donors, go to lincolnteammates.org/.

Tips for ending the school year, plan for summer

The end of the school year means a change in the mentoring relationship. It's important for mentors to anticipate the concerns and discuss them with their mentees.

Sometimes this can be a confusing time for students, especially if this is the first year they've had a mentor. It's common for students to think their mentor is with them for only one school year. Following are a few suggestions.

- ✦ If you plan to continue with the student, assure them you will see them next year, even if they will be going to a different school.
- ✦ Review your mentoring agreement with each other.
- ✦ Explain how the beginning of the year works for TeamMates meetings – that it may be a few weeks after school starts for the facilitator to call you and make arrangements for meeting. And, no



matter what school they will be attending, the mentor will be contacted by that school.

- ✦ Set a time to meet in the fall if you can – discuss it now with the facilitator or identify the third or fourth week after school starts as the time you will get

together and mark it on the calendar.

- ✦ Brainstorm ideas to stay in touch during the summer if that's agreeable to the two of you. (Refer to your *TeamMates Training Manual* or the TeamMates website for summer ideas). As a matter of business, you will need a separate Plan for Meeting Out of School form for *each* meeting.
- ✦ If your student is attending the Abbott sports camps, you can choose to have lunch with them at Abbott without needing a *Plan for Meeting Out of School* form.
- ✦ Be sure to celebrate all the good work you've done together during the year. Perhaps interview each other about the changes you've experienced.
- ✦ If you won't be able to mentor next year, having a time for closure with the young person is essential. Refer to your

Abbott sports camps free for mentees

If your mentee loves sports and wants to learn or improve his/her skills, Abbott Sports Summer Camps will be a perfect choice.

TeamMates and Abbott Sports Complex offer the four-day sports camps at no cost to mentees going into elementary school through 8th grade. Siblings of TeamMates receive a significant discount.

Make sure your mentee is aware of this wonderful opportunity. Campers attend camp at Abbott, 7600 N. 70th, Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Lunch is provided. Mentors can meet with their mentees at Abbott during lunch.

The goal of the summer camps is to guide and teach every camper according to their ability while making the activities



fun and rewarding. The camps emphasize improving a child's technical skill while enjoying the sport, practicing good sportsmanship, building teamwork. The experience teaches important life skills that the child can use on and off the field/court.

Transportation is offered at two sites: Irving Middle School (2745 S 22nd St) and Culler Middle School (5201 Vine).

Camps start June 14 with an All Sports camp. Subsequent camps include football, soccer, volleyball, and tennis.

More information and registration is available online at abbottsports.com and on lincolnteammates.org; or call Abbott, 464-2255.

In their own words

From TeamMates high school seniors:

"My TeamMate mentor has inspired my life to work harder in school and is a friend that listens to me." - P.S.

"[TeamMates] has made me a confident young woman. I am not afraid to stand up for what I believe in. I am going to be a TeamMates mentor in the future." - K.A.

"When I meet with my TeamMate, she tells me the things I should get done. This helps me and lets me know she actually cares." - K.C.

"This program is the reason I will graduate...I know for sure it is also the reason why I get out of bed in the morning and come to school." - T.R.

"My mentor has impacted my life in a huge way." - G.K.

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The Mentor is printed quarterly by TeamMates™ of Lincoln to inform, inspire and engage the mentoring community. "Our mission is to positively impact the world by inspiring youth to reach their full potential through mentoring."

Our mission: "...to POSITIVELY IMPACT the WORLD"

Lauren Wegman was a high school junior when she contracted meningitis. The disease kept her out of school for several weeks. It was difficult socially and academically to return to school.

Grace Kluck was a sixth grader when she suffered a concussion, a serious injury that took her out of school for several weeks. She found it extremely difficult to return to the way life had been before the accident.

And then the two met. Lauren was a freshman in college volunteering at a middle school as part of a field assignment when she met sixth grader Grace, who had become shy and withdrawn after the head trauma and separation from school and friends.



Grace and Lauren

"We clicked from the beginning," Lauren said. Lauren said she remembered how hard it had been to come back after a long break from friends and social circles. She knew Grace must be going through the same thing.

That was the connection and the

foundation of a mentoring relationship.

They became TeamMates. As the two spent their one hour a week talking about life issues, Grace grew in confidence and spirit. She won competitions in speech and theater and vocal music.

Grace explains it this way: "Lauren taught me to be confident in who I was and to break out of my shell so that by the time high school rolled around I was a bold confident girl who loved the performing arts."

And now, after six years with Lauren as her TeamMate, Grace is getting ready for college. She graduates this year from North Star and plans to go to University of Nebraska-Lincoln to study broadcasting with a minor in vocal music.